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### **WIND AND PRAIRIE TASK FORCE Some Basic Assumptions**

The following list of assumptions were originally submitted by task force members Richard Seaton, John Strickler, Monty Wedel, and Michael Irvin, in response to a request from co-chair Jerry Karr. They have been revised to incorporate input from task force members and reflect some of the working assumptions of task force.

1. The capacity of the present electric transmission system in Kansas is limited. [Note: Although it is impossible to determine how many generating facilities could be connected without a detailed engineering analysis of all potential sites, it is estimated that the present transmission system in the Flint Hills region could probably accommodate 200–300 megawatts of additional generation (or 2–3 wind farms). Similarly, in western Kansas, additional generation is limited by current transmission to about 200–300 megawatts (or 2–3 wind farms).]
2. The electric transmission system will be expanded in the future.
3. The federal tax credit for renewable energy will be reenacted by Congress.
4. In the Flint Hills region, Chase and Morris counties have no zoning, and some other counties have only limited zoning in rural areas.
5. There is a definite potential for development of a tourism industry in the Flint Hills.
6. The orientation of the task force should be long term (10 or more years), rather than short term (1 to 2 years).
7. U.S. and Kansas energy needs will continue to grow, and wind energy will be a part of that growth. There will be increasing pressure to use renewable energy sources.
8. The vast majority of the land in Kansas is privately held.
9. Only 4% of the original tallgrass prairie remains, and most of it is located in the Flint Hills of Kansas.
10. Human activity and construction in the Flint Hills will further diminish the nesting habitat for prairie grouse and other prairie birds.
11. The Flint Hills is a multi-county region, and the issues involving wind-energy development in the Flint Hills transcend county lines.
12. Parts of the Flint Hills are more disrupted by human activity than others.

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13. If wind energy is developed in the Flint Hills, certain landowners who have turbines on their land will realize economic gain.
14. Some landowners in the Flint Hills support wind-energy development; others are opposed.
15. The task force is not focused on small-scale (4–10 turbines) wind-energy development intended for individuals or municipalities.
16. The Kansas Legislature is unlikely to implement statewide zoning or land-use controls.
17. Because so much of Kansas is privately held, Federal and State initiatives for parks and/or preservation will be resisted.
18. Major wind development in western Kansas may be assisted by technological innovations, but not in the near future.
19. The task force report will inevitably please some people and displease others.